mail-out/mail-back procedures (U.S. Postal Service), internet, and with phone and field enumeration for targeted non-respondents. Data collection for Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and American Samoa will be conducted using direct enumeration methods only. For the 50 states, respondents will be contacted up to 7 times by mail (postcard announcement, 3 mailings of the questionnaire and internet access instruction, and postcard reminders) and additional telephone or personal interview follow-up for mail and internet non-respondents. Questionnaires returned by the Post Office as non-deliverable will be removed from the target population and subsequent mailings. Respondents who contact one of our phone centers to notify NASS of their farming status or to complete a questionnaire will also be removed from any subsequent mailings. In 2020, NASS conducted cognitive interviews of proposed changes to the 2022 Census of Agriculture using the Generic Testing docket (0535–0248). In December 2020 NASS began testing the 2022 Census of Agriculture and will continue testing through September 2021, using the Census Content Testing docket (0535–0243).

Four census of agriculture questionnaire versions will be used for the 50 states. One version will be used for Hawaii to contain tropical commodities unique to that state. One version will be used for Native American tribes to accommodate operating structures unique to some tribal lands. One shorter version will target farm operations known to not have certain commodities or farming practices. A longer form will be used for the remaining farming operations. NASS is working to increase the speed and ease at which any respondent may fill out the form by incorporating improved screening questions in the internet version of the questionnaire that automatically skips questions that do not apply to a particular respondent. This reduces respondent burden, particularly for small operations and operations specializing in only a few commodities. A screening survey, conducted prior to the census, will enable NASS to eliminate non-farm operations from the census mail list and determine respondent eligibility for receiving the appropriate census mail package.

The census of agriculture is required by law under the “Census of Agriculture Act of 1995” (Pub. L. 104–113, 7 U.S.C. 2204(g). Response to the screening form, the census of agriculture and the census special study surveys are mandatory. The census special study surveys will be included under different OMB approvals. Individually identifiable data collected under this authority are governed by Section 1770 of the Food Security Act of 1985 as amended, 7 U.S.C. 2276, which requires USDA to afford strict confidentiality to non-aggregated data provided by respondents. This Notice is submitted in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3501, et seq.) and Office of Management and Budget regulations at 5 CFR part 1320.

NASS also complies with OMB Implementation Guidance, “Implementation Guidance for Title V of the E-Government Act, Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA),” Federal Register, Vol. 72, No. 115, June 15, 2007, p. 33362. The law guarantees farm operators that their individual information will be kept confidential. NASS uses the information only for statistical purposes and publishes only tabulated total data. These data are used by Congress when developing or changing farm programs. Many national and state programs are designed or allocated based on census data, i.e., soil conservation projects, funds for cooperative extension programs, and research funding. Private industry uses the data to provide more effective production and distribution systems for the agricultural community.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting burden for this collection of information will average about 50 minutes per census long form, 40 minutes per census short form, 30 to 50 minutes for U.S. territories, 15 minutes per screening form, and 2 minutes per refusal from all sources. Additional burden is allotted for instruction sheets, cover letters, and postcard reminders.

Respondents: Farm and ranch operators.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 4,320,000

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 2,960,000 hours.

Comments: Comments are invited on:
(a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
(b) the accuracy of the agency’s estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
(c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
(d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, technological or other forms of information technology collection methods.

All responses to this notice will become a matter of public record and be summarized in the request for OMB approval.


Kevin L. Barnes,
Associate Administrator.

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BILLING CODE 3140–20–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Census Bureau

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Business and Professional Classification Report

AGENCY: Census Bureau, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment on the proposed extension of the Business and Professional Classification Report prior to the submission of the information collection request (ICR) to OMB for approval.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before May 7, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by email to Thomas.J.Smith@census.gov. Please reference Business and Professional Classification Report in the subject line of your comments. You may also submit comments, identified by Docket Number USBC–2021–0007, to the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: https://www.regulations.gov. All comments received are part of the public record. No comments will be posted to https://www.regulations.gov for public viewing until after the comment period has closed. Comments will generally be posted without change.
All Personally Identifiable Information (for example, name and address) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information. You may submit attachments to electronic comments in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Scott Handmaker, Branch Chief, Classification Processing Branch, Economic Statistical Methods Division, (301) 763–7107, and Scott.P.Handmaker@census.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The Census Bureau conducts the Business and Professional Classification Report to collect information from new businesses to obtain proper industry classification for use in economic surveys and the Economic Census. The survey, conducted quarterly, samples businesses with newly assigned Employer Identification Numbers (EINs) from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Businesses can only be selected once for the survey. The survey collects data about a business in such areas as: Primary business activity, company structure, size, and business operations. This information is used to update the sampling frame for current business surveys, which ensures high quality economic estimates. Additionally, by ensuring proper industry classification, this survey reduces burden for the businesses in the five-year Economic Census, as the questions in the census are tailored to the industry in which the business operates.

Respondents will choose the economic sector of their business and then select from a list of business activities. If the respondent does not see their business activity listed, then they will provide a brief description of their business activity. This is the same methodology that the Census Bureau uses in the Economic Census to assign industry classification.

Minimal changes will be made to the wording and organization of existing questions and instructions.

II. Method of Collection

The Business and Professional Classification Report is primarily collected via the internet and telephone follow-up. Those selected for the survey receive an initial letter informing the respondents of their requirement to complete the survey as well as instructions on accessing the survey. Responses will be due approximately 30 days from initial mailing. Respondents will also receive a due date reminder approximately one week before responses are due. After the due date, an overdue notice is sent to nonrespondents. Lastly, the Census Bureau will conduct telephone and email follow-up operations for nonresponse. Throughout the survey, telephone assistance is available for respondents with questions and for those that cannot report over the internet.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0607–0189.
Form Number(s): SQ–CLASS.
Type of Review: Regular submission, Request for an Extension, without Change, of Currently Approved Collection.
Affected Public: Business or other for profit and not-for-profit institutions.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 52,000.
Estimated Time per Response: 13 minutes.
Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 11,267.
Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: $0. (This is not the cost of respondents’ time, but the indirect costs respondents may incur for such things as purchases of specialized software or hardware needed to report, or expenditures for accounting or records maintenance services required specifically by the collection.)
Respondent’s Obligation: Mandatory.
Legal Authority: Title 13, United States Code, Sections 131, 182, 193, 224, and 225.

IV. Request for Comments

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department/Bureau to: (a) Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) Evaluate ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. We will include, or summarize, each comment in our request to OMB to approve this ICR. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,
Department PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B–15–2021]

Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) 31—Granite City, Illinois; Notification of Proposed Production Activity; M.M.O. Companies, Inc. (Disassembly of Firearms and Ammunition); Mascoutah and Edwardsville, Illinois

America’s Central Port District, grantee of FTZ 31, submitted a notification of proposed production activity to the FTZ Board on behalf of M.M.O. Companies, Inc. (M.M.O.), located in Mascoutah and Edwardsville, Illinois. The notification conforming to the requirements of the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR 400.22) was received on March 1, 2021.

The M.M.O. facility is located within Subzone 31E. The facility is used for the disassembly of firearms and ammunition as well as the modification of receivers. Pursuant to 15 CFR 400.14(b), FTZ activity would be limited to the specific foreign-status materials and components and specific finished products described in the submitted notification (as described below) and subsequently authorized by the FTZ Board.

Production under FTZ procedures could exempt M.M.O. from customs duty payments on the foreign-status components used in export production. On its domestic sales, for the foreign-status materials/components noted below, M.M.O. would be able to choose the duty rates during customs entry procedures that apply to: Trigger groups, gas piston assemblies, sight assemblies, magazines, rail attachments, dust cover assemblies, muzzle device assemblies, bolt carriers, bolts, operating rods, cocking handles, carrying handles,